

Increasing the tobacco tax has been shown to reduce smoking, particularly among children and youth

- **Recommendation 4.4
(PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION)**
In order to further reduce youth smoking, the North Carolina General Assembly should increase the tobacco tax per pack to the national average. Increasing the tobacco tax has been shown to reduce smoking, particularly among children and youth. The increased fees should be used exclusively to support prevention and treatment efforts for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
- **Recommendation 4.5**
The North Carolina General Assembly should appropriate \$1.5 million to support Quitline NC.
- **Recommendation 4.6
(PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION)**
The North Carolina General Assembly should enact a law which prohibits smoking in all public buildings including, but not limited to, restaurants, bars, and worksites.
- **Recommendation 4.7
(PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION)**
In order to reduce underage drinking, the North Carolina General Assembly should increase the excise tax on beer. Beer is the alcoholic beverage of choice among youth, and youth are sensitive to price increases. In addition, the excise taxes on beer and wine should be indexed to the consumer price index so they can keep pace with inflation. The excise tax for beer was last increased in 1969, and wine was last increased in 1979. The increased fees should be used exclusively to support prevention and treatment efforts for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. \$2.0 million of the funds raised through the new taxes should support a comprehensive alcohol awareness education and prevention campaign aimed at changing cultural norms to prevent initiation and reduce underage alcohol consumption and to reduce alcohol abuse or dependence among adults.
- **Recommendation 4.8**
The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services; Division of Public Health; Division of Social Services; and other providers should develop a prevention plan to prevent alcohol spectrum